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English Land Restoration
League

Special report, 1894

London

1895

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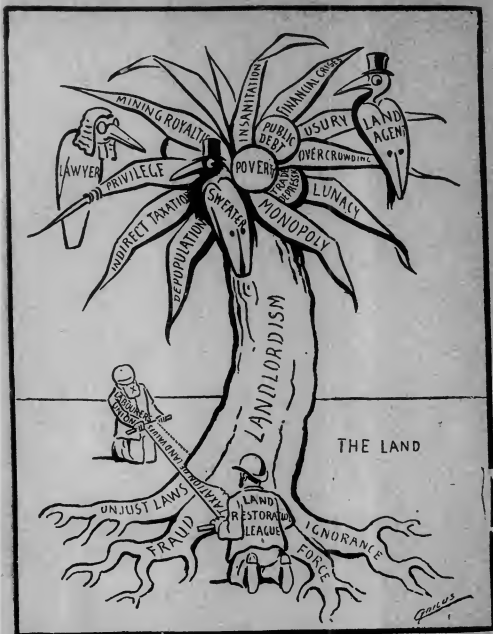
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AMONG THE
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WITH THE
"RED VANS."

"Land is the common place, its rich soil and fertile life, of man's common inheritance; it cannot be treated as the private property of individuals—those who see the idle toilers upon the landless soil, and giving to the redemptive and necessary of the industry, happiness and lives of their fellow-men—claim the Manifesto of the English Land Restoration League—first issued 1890."

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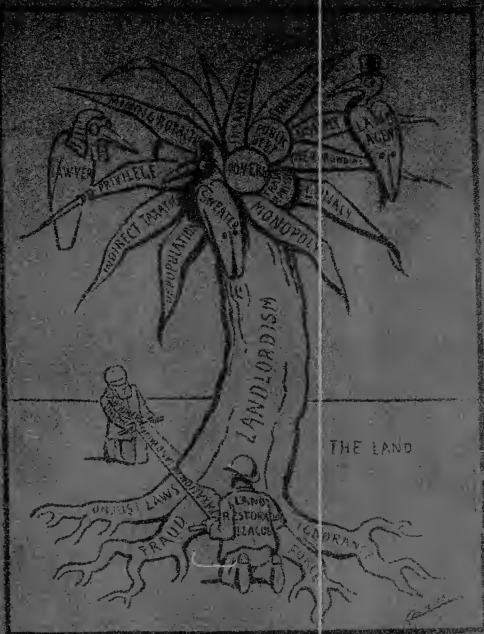
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AMONG THE
AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS

WITH THE

"RED VANS."

"Land being the dwelling-place, storehouse and workshop of men—yet unknown
(from necessary to labour and life—it cannot be treated) as the private property of
individuals without enabling the idle to live upon the industrious, and giving to indi-
viduals under control of the industry, happiness and lives of their fellows"—(From
the Manifesto of the English Land Restoration League first issued in 1884.)

PRICE ONE PENNY.

LONDON

OFFICES OF THE ENGLISH LAND RESTORATION
LEAGUE,

8, DUKE STREET, ADELPHI, W.C.

March, 1895

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* These (together with the Officers of the League and one Delegate from each Club or other Society affiliated to the League) form the Executive.

† Members of the Van Sub-Committee (1894) § Trustees of the "Red Van Fund."

Officers:

8 DUKE STREET, ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C.

THE "RED VAN FUND" is quite distinct from the "General Fund" of the League. Cheques, Postal Orders, etc., should be made payable "to the account of the Red Van Fund," and crossed "City Bank, Ludgate Hill". All Communications respecting the League should be addressed to the General Secretary at the office as above.

The Campaign of the Land Restoration Vans (1893) being now concluded, the Secretary is in a position to arrange Special Lectures on "Life in our Villages," "Land and Labour in Town and Country," and similar subjects, by the various Lecturers who have been travelling with the "Red Vans."

* * Suggestions for the "Red Van" Campaign of 1895 will be gladly received by the Secretary for consideration by the special Sub-Committee.

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The Land Restoration Vans—1894.

REPORT.

INTRODUCTORY.

AS each annual issue of the "Red Van Report" falls into the hands of many who are not acquainted with the earlier history of the movement, the Committee think it advisable to preface this, their fourth Report, with a brief sketch of what has been done during the past three years. The following account is abridged from two articles which appeared in the London *Weekly Dispatch* of May 6th and 13th, 1894.

For many years past the lecturers of the Land Restoration League have been calling the attention of London workmen to the steady depopulation of the rural districts revealed by all the census returns since 1851. What that depopulation means to the working population of London and the great towns has now become one of the commonest and increasing facts of life. The growth of slums, and an ever-increasing army of "blacklegs," supplied by the rural landless ready to the hand of the City capitalist. Early in 1891 the Executive of the League felt that the time had come when some effort should be made to attack the evil at its source. They decided to extend their propaganda into the villages, and to endeavour to make it possible for the labourer to obtain in his native parish those elementary rights of a civilised existence which he was driven to seek, and to seek in vain, in the towns. But the well-known fact that, under landlord rule, it is, in hundreds of villages, impossible to obtain a meeting place, appeared at first to offer a serious difficulty, until the idea of sending out a Van was suggested. A small fund was raised, and an old parcel post Van was purchased and adapted to its new uses. A lecturer and driver were appointed, supplied with bedding and cooking apparatus, to say nothing of a large stock of literature, and in April, 1891, set forth into the villages of Suffolk to educate the labourers in the principles of Land Restoration, promoters of the movement wisely felt that if the Van meetings were to produce any form of permanent organisation of the labourers. It was evident that no organisation could be successful, and managed from London, or any one centre, would have the slightest chance of success, and obviously the one form of combination suited to the circumstances and needs of the labourers was that of the Trades Union. County unions

* The Reports for 1891 (5,000 copies), for 1892 (10,000 copies), and for 1893 (5,000 copies) are now nearly out of print. A very few copies of these Reports can still be supplied at 6d. a copy.

† A weekly Report of Red Van work appeared in same paper (country edition) from May to December, 1894.

democratically constituted, managed by the labourers themselves, with a small subscription, and free from the burden of any such "benefit section" as had brought the National Union to grief, appeared to meet all the needs of the case. Happily such a Union already existed in Suffolk. The Eastern Counties Labour Federation had been founded in the previous autumn by a few working men in Ipswich, who clearly saw that landlordism is the enemy against which the labourer has to fight, and that combination, not merely for "trade," but also for electoral purposes, is the weapon with which to fight it. The Federation welcomed the help of the Red Van, and as a result of a twenty-seven weeks' campaign, its 11 branches grew to 21, and its 250 members increased to 8,000. It is worth noting that almost everywhere a rise of 2s. a week in the scanty wages of the labourers followed in the wake of the Red Van. So satisfactory were the results deemed that the Executive speedily found itself in possession of a largely-increased fund, and was able in the following spring to put five Red Vans in the field. Four of these worked during the summer of 1892 in Cambridgeshire, Somerset, Berkshire, and Herefordshire respectively; in the first two cases in connection with the Eastern Counties Labour Federation and a similar Union in the West of England, in the two latter counties in connection with Unions newly founded by local members of the League. The fifth Van worked mainly in London and the home counties, and did good service during the general election in Hammersmith and elsewhere. Last year (1893) again five Vans were at work. One of them revisited Berkshire, one of the most landlord-ridden counties in England, and had a rather rough time of it at the hands of the landlords and their sympathisers. A second worked in Wiltshire, and left a strong and well-organised Union behind it as the result of its journeyings to and fro in East and South Wilts. In Warwickshire another new Union made solid progress. The Hertfordshire Land and Labour League and the Norfolk and Norwich Amalgamated Labour Union were the local organisations with which the other two Vans co-operated.

The plan of campaign is the same in all these cases. The Van arrives in a village early in the forenoon. The meeting has been announced several days beforehand by bills sent from the League office, and the villagers are generally on the look-out for the "red cart." The lecturer arranges for the distribution of pictorial leaflets, containing a notice of the meeting, to the children as they leave the village school at noon, and in a short time it is known in every cottage that the "Red Van" has arrived, and is stationed on the village green (with or without the permission of the lord of the manor, or near the "Blue Cow," or in the blacksmith's meadow. The lecturer spends the afternoon in making inquiries. He visits the allotments, looks up the assistant overseer, interviews labourers, parsons, farmers, shopkeepers, and labourers' wives. At half-past seven the labourers begin to gather round the Van, and the meeting opens. Speeches last for perhaps an hour and a half, questions are invited, and literature distributed. At the end of the meeting the labourers are invited to join the local Union. If a new branch is formed, the members elect their branch secretary and treasurer, open their books, and pay their first subscriptions. The meeting usually closes with the singing of some of the "Red Van Songs"; but often the labourers linger round the Van till far into the night, talking of insidious cottages and stolen commons, of heavily-rented allotments and misappropriated charities, of low wages and irregular work, and of the better times in store when the land shall be the people's, and the villages shall be ruled by the villagers and not by the landlord. . . .

Land restorers seem to be very inquisitive persons, and the League has supplied the lecturers with a number of daily report forms to fill up, the completeness of which would do credit to an assessor of income-tax. As these daily reports will furnish the material for our weekly Red Van Notes, our readers may like to see how this new inquisition is carried on. The lecturer has to furnish replies from each village he visits to the following questions:—

"Are there any *allotments* in the parish? If so, to what extent? Allotment rent per acre? Do tenants pay rates? Names of *large farmers* in parish (with names, addresses, acreage, rent per acre, number of men employed)? Any uncultivated farms or uncultivated lands? For what reason? To what extent? Changes from arable to pasture? *Common Lands*, past or present, or Common Rights? Poor's land? Charities?

"What is the rate of *agricultural labourers' wages* (for men? women? in summer? in winter? harvest money)? Hours of labour (in summer? in winter? on Sunday)?

"Are there any other *industries*?

"Are the *cottages* held under the farmers? Rent on cottages? Size and general condition? Adequate to the demand or otherwise? Drainage? Water supply? Gardens (size, &c.)?

"Is the *population* diminishing? Reasons given?

"Are there any *large manorials or parks* in the parish? (Name of mansion? Name of owner? Amount at which assessed)?

"*Local organisations*, if any (labourers' unions, co-operative store, cattle insurance club, political or social clubs or associations, with secretaries' names and addresses)?

Besides all this, spaces are provided for "remarks" and for full particulars of the meetings held, and of the organising done, and "supplementary reports" frequently come to land dealing with matters of special local interest not provided for in the general form of report.

THE CAMPAIGN OF 1894.

It is unnecessary to enter at great length into the working details of the campaign of 1894, as the old methods have been steadily adhered to. Three of the Vans appeared in the Labour Day procession to Hyde Park on Sunday, May 6th, and excited great interest and much curiosity. Two of them left, immediately after the demonstration, for Warwickshire and Wiltshire respectively, holding nightly meetings *en route*, and a little later other Vans were despatched to the Eastern Counties. No new Labourers' Unions have been founded during the past year, as the large counties opened up in earlier campaigns provided abundant scope for second visits. In view of the extreme importance of the pending elections in the rural districts the Van campaign was prolonged to a later date than in any previous year. On November 3rd all the Vans returned to London—the cold, wet weather making it impossible to continue the nightly open-air meetings. But five lecturers were immediately sent out to hold a series of indoor meetings, with special reference to the elections under the Local Government Act, 1894, and these meetings were continued until the polls in December.

The following table includes all the meetings held under the "Red Van" Trust during 1894:—

COUNTY.	"VAN" MEETINGS.	INDOOR MEETINGS.	TOTALS.
Bedford	127	36	163
Berks	10	34	44
Bucks	7	3	10
Essex	3	3	6
Herts	5	3	8
Hunts	18	5	23
Middlesex	3	3	6
Norfolk	62	36	98
Northampton	4	1	5
Oxford	1	4	5
Suffolk	3	3	6
Surrey	1	3	4
Cambridgeshire	133	34	167
Wiltshire	4	1	5
Worcester	4	1	5
	531	178	709

IMITATION AND OPPOSITION.

Two striking compliments have been paid during 1894 to the effectiveness of the Red Van propaganda. The Australian single-taxers sent out their "Propaganda Van No. 1," about the end of June, into the country districts, in avowed imitation of the League's methods. The Van bears in large white letters the motto—"FREE TRADE, FREE LAND, FREE MEN." And in August last an organised attempt was made in England to "disabuse the minds" of the agricultural labourers of the "pernicious trash which is being preached to them by irresponsible revolutionaries and to counteract the evil influence of the 'Red Van' agitation." The *Liberty Review* is edited by the assistant-secretary of the Liberty and Property Defence League. On August 11th it announced to its readers that "Liberty Platform lecturers" were addressing meetings in Bedfordshire, and appealed for subscriptions. M. D. O'Brien, "author of anti-Socialist works," and J. L. Blain, who claims to have been an active supporter of, and lecturer for Henry George in New York, were the lecturers in question, the "platform" being a tandem tricycle. They appeared and spoke at one Red Van meeting, but afterwards wisely kept out of the way of the Van and its lecturer. The story of their hopeless failure may be read between the lines of the curious "reports" published in the *Liberty Review*.^{*} Eighteen meetings only appear to have been held. To the great comfort of the lecturers, at some of the places, some of the persons present seemed to be "in favour of private property in land"; but we also read that the "mob sang 'Red Van' songs while the speaking was going on." The lecturers appeared to have disagreed and separated before, at the end of a month, the hopeless enterprise was abandoned. The *Liberty Review*, with characteristic impudence, then stated that the lecturers "have now concluded their tour in Bedfordshire, having visited every village in the county and addressed meetings and distributed pamphlets and leaflets on the land and labour questions."[†]

THE RIGHT OF PUBLIC MEETING.

The fight for the right to meet on the greens and open spaces of the villages has been unceasingly carried on during the past year. The first "Daily Report" that came to hand contained a warning of the coming struggle. "The landlord's agent reminded me," wrote the lecturer, "that I ought to have sought his permission to place the Van on the Lord of the Manor's land." This was at Amersham, Bucks. And almost the last scene in the Norfolk campaign was the prosecution of the lecturer before the Grimston Bench, who fined him 10s. because, being denied accommodation at the local inn, he placed the Van and held a meeting on the

^{*} August 11th, 18th, 25th, September 1st, 15th (1894).

[†] In connection with the "Liberty Platform propaganda" Mr. O'Brien drew a lecture from Mr. Herbert Spencer with reference to an alleged misrepresentation by the League of the latter's views on "The Right to the Use of the Earth." The story of the collapse of this attempt to discredit the League has been published in two numbers of the new series of Land Restoration Tracts (No. 1, Mr. Herbert Spencer and the Land Restoration League"; No. 2, "Mr. Herbert Spencer on the Land Question." One penny each).

only available open space, at the junction of two roads. A number of attempts were made by Lords of the Manor and their agents to remove the Vans forcibly from the greens, and on several occasions efforts were made by the village aristocracy or their flunkies to break up the meetings by violence. At Sutton Veney (Wills), a well-known local Tory, named King, drove up during the meeting and began to swear at the lecturer and at John Ball, a prominent member of the Wiltshire Labourers' Union, who was present. When asked to desist, he began to lay about him with a long whip, with which he twice struck a labourer named Whatley, cutting him under the eye, and knocking off his hat. For this assault King was summoned before the Warminster Bench, and the lecturer was called as a witness. The defendant did not dispute the facts but set up the "defence" that he meant to hit John Ball and hit Whatley by mistake! Lord Heytesbury^{*} stated on behalf of the magistrates that "the Bench were of opinion that it was the most trivial case that was ever brought before them." He fined King 1s., and left the assaulted labourer to pay his own costs. Now, if the Red Van lecturer had driven into a Tory meeting and cut Lord Heytesbury over the face with blows intended for his friend King, does anyone suppose that he could have enjoyed the luxury at the small cost of one shilling? But Red Van meetings are different.

The Surrey County Council have made an impudent attempt to get the Home Secretary's sanction for Bye Laws relating to Vans, similar to those which the Essex County Council[†] tried to smuggle through the Home Office last year, and have been promptly snubbed by Mr. Asquith for their pains.[‡]

THE VILLAGE SCHOOLS.

While the landlord claims the right to prevent open-air meetings on "his" land, the landlord, or the landlord-appointed parson, seems to object equally to meetings in what are facetiously called the "National" Schools. Schoolrooms were refused again and again for meetings on the Parish Councils Act, often on the most flimsy pretexts: the lecturer "might introduce party politics," might "set class against class," and "disturb people's minds"; "a meeting had already been held to explain (away) the Act so many months ago, and, therefore, no other meeting was necessary." Sometimes the use of the schoolroom was granted, but, when the night came, the labourers were let into a dark, unwarmed room; §

^{*} *Wiltshire Times*, July 7th, 1894; *Wiltshire Herald*, July 10th. For further information about this noble Lord see the Report for 1893, p. 20 ("The landlord as confiscator.")

[†] Red Van Report, 1893, pp. 8-10.

[‡] The Local Government Act will enable the new Councils in some degree to protect open spaces in villages from encroachment. An important "Memorandum as to the Powers and Duties of Rural District Councils with respect to Rights of Way, Roadside Waives, and Commons," has been issued by the Local Government Board. Copies can be supplied post free at 1d. each, from the office of the English Land Restoration League.

§ The Venerable Archdeacon Holbeach, Squire of Farnborough, Warwickshire, charged 3s. for the use of the room, holding the labourers responsible for any damage that might be done, and then provided neither fire nor lights! The Vicar of Pentenhill, a Conservative and a landlord, on the contrary, not only lent the school for a meeting but exhibited a red bill in the church porch.

"the Act says nothing about fire or lights" and the labourers or the lecturer had to provide candles or lamps. One Berkshire vicar wished to make it a condition, in letting the school, that nothing should be said at the meeting about the labourers only getting 9s. a week. Another first granted the use of the school, and then, finding that it was for a "Red Van agitator," withdrew his permission, alleging, when pressed for a reason, that he stood in fear of the Squire, who would hardly let him live in the place. Consequently, in November and December, many of the meetings had to be held in chapels, barns, cart-sheds, blacksmiths' shops, inns, or cottages. Sometimes every building in the parish was closed against the Red Van lecturer, and the meeting had to be held in the open air. At Appleton the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting indignantly protests against the action of the Rev. Wm. Moore, which action, though perfectly legal, condemns us to stand out in the rain to listen to speeches which we desire to hear.

The chapel and all the barns, as well as the school, were refused here. A similar resolution was passed at Fyfield.*

PARISH COUNCILS PROPAGANDA.

In spite however, of all these special hindrances, the meetings held during November and December were, almost without exception, extremely successful and enthusiastic. The large attendances, and still more the keen questioning of the lecturers, testified everywhere to the intense interest of the labourers in the coming elections. As was inevitable, the labourers—inexperienced in election tactics—made many mistakes† and were in many cases tricked or bullied out of their rights, and many excellent candidates were disqualified at the last moment owing to slight technical mistakes in filling up their nomination papers. But, on the whole, wherever the Red Van and the Labourers' Union had been, the labourers and their friends gave an exceedingly good account of themselves, and, in many cases, simply captured every seat on the Council. An official return of the new Councils, giving the occupations of the members, would be an exceedingly interesting document. A complete summary of the results is impossible to be obtained except through national machinery.

IN THE WORKHOUSE AND OUT OF IT.

It is unnecessary again to go over the ground covered by the startling series of "Labourers' Budgets" published in last year's Report, but the following facts afford such an admirable illustration of the way in which the "free" labourer fares in rural England that it would be a pity not to quote them.

* Sect. 4 of the Local Government Act is practically useless as it stands. Mr. Acland must be pressed to bring in his promised Bill to throw open State-aided schools for public meetings. It is worth noting that under the Local Government Act, 1894, Sect. 12, the Parish meeting has power to apply to the Education Department for the formation of a School Board.

† But their opponents sometimes make mistakes also. In one Warwickshire parish, in order to prevent a labourer from winning the single seat on the District Council, two farmers (close personal friends and of the same political opinions) put up against him! The mistake was only discovered on the eve of the poll. The labourer was returned.

In one of the parishes which are included in the Bradfield Poor Law Union, Berks, lives a labourer with his wife and two children, the eldest being five years of age. The head of the family is a carter, working on a farm for the landlord who "owns" almost the whole of the parish. His summer wages of 12s. a week are reduced to 12s. in the winter (from September 22 to April 6—28 weeks). He receives annually £3 as "Michaelmas money," and has opportunities during the summer of earning a little extra by piece work. His *average* earnings, apart from the Michaelmas money, are not much more than 13s. a week, and he lives in his cottage rent-free. Here is the domestic budget of his family—exceptionally favoured in its comparatively high wages, small number of children, regular work, and rent-free cottage:—

	s.	d.
Bread (5 quarters)	1 10
Flour (½ gallon)	0 4
Tea (½ lb.)	0 6
Butter (1 lb.)	1 3
Lard (1 lb.)	0 6
Sugar (6 lbs.)	1 0
Bacon or other Meat (about 4 lbs.)	2 8
Cheese (1 lb.)	0 8
Milk (half-pint condensed)	0 3½
Oil, Candle, Soap, Soda, Salt, Pepper, &c.	1 0
Coal	1 0
Beer	none
Tobacco	none
Insurance ("Prudential")	0 3
Labourers' Union	0 1
Wood, Tools, Dispensary, & about	0 6
Insurance ("Foresters") and margin for Clothes	1 1½
		<hr/> 13 0

It is interesting to compare the position of this comparatively well-placed labourer with that of the inmates of the local workhouse. The

* A marvellous item in a district in which dairy farming is almost the sole industry.

† A load of fagots twice a year at 9s. per load.

‡ A fork and a shovel at 2s. 6d. each once a year; the latter for occasional jobs at gravel-digging.

§ One shilling a quarter. Note the extraordinary provision for thrift which distinguishes this budget. At one of the Berkshire meetings the Chairman of the Abingdon Board of Guardians warned the labourers not to be misled by the Red Van lecturer into expecting too much from Parish Councils. What they wanted was—to practise THRIFT, [N.B.—Wages, 9s. a week.] A member of the audience promptly reminded this gentleman that he had just voted in favour of giving a pension to the Master of the Workhouse, "who, for the past 20 years and more, had had the opportunity of practising thrift" on a good salary and "all found." The Warwickshire lecturer saw and copied a certificate given, with a premium of £2, to a shepherd by the Banbury Agricultural Association "for having maintained himself and *nine* children (illness excepted) the longest period without Parochial Relief." He worked 31 years on the same farm at a wage of 10s. a week and a free cottage. One of his daughters states that he was never seen drunk or with a pipe in his mouth, and that he was never known to have a day's holiday in his life.

Guardians of the Bradfield Union have no sentimental tenderness for paupers. They preface their Annual Report for 1893—dated January 1st, 1894—with the following maxims:—

The situation of the pauper ought not, on the whole, to be made really or apparently so eligible as the situation of the lowest class of independent labourer.

Those who are placed in a position of trust cannot be too careful to restrain the natural tendency of human nature to be liberal at the expense of others.

In the aforesaid report appears the following statement of the "average cost per head per week" of the inmates of the workhouse.

	MAINTENANCE.	CLOTHING.	ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES.	TOTALS.
	s. d.	d.	s. d.	s. d.
Men	4 4½	5½	1 3½	6 1½
Women	3 9½	5	1 3½	5 6½
Children (elder)	3 9½	5	1 3½	5 6½
" (younger)	3 4½	5½	1 3½	5 1½

It is plain, therefore, that, if the family above described should be compelled by misfortune to seek the shelter of the workhouse, the cost of keeping them alive, even under the rigid administration upon which the Bradfield Guardians pride themselves, will be £1 1s. 10½d. per week. Yet they are expected to live and to save, outside the workhouse, on 13s. a week!

What can be said of the condition of another family in the same parish, consisting of *eleven* persons, who have to "live" on a wage of 12s. a week (reduced to 11s. in winter), out of which 3s. a week is paid for the cottage?

THE LABOURER'S HOME.

Special attention was directed in the last report to the question of the *tenure* of labourers' cottages. The delegates from two of the Labourers' Unions—Norfolk and Wiltshire—representing counties where the evil of "tied cottages" is very prevalent, brought the matter before the Norwich Trade Union Congress in September, 1894, and a resolution instructing the Parliamentary Committee to prepare a Bill on the subject was unanimously carried. This Bill, "prepared and brought in by Mr. Cyril Dodd, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Everett, Mr. Arch and Mr. Warner," had just been printed when the present report was put to press.*

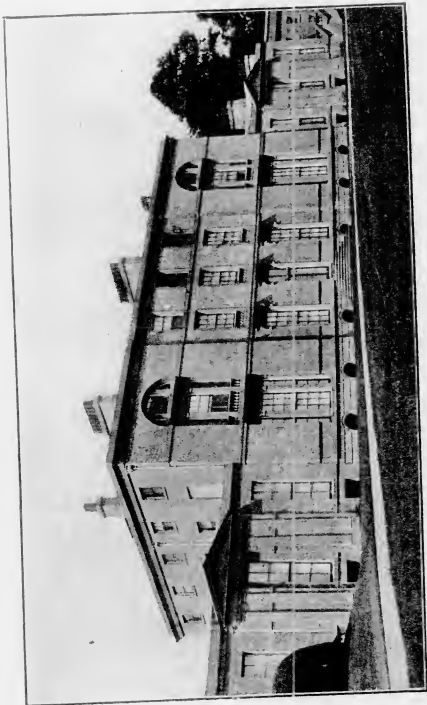
The question of the *sanitary condition* of the country cottage opens up one of the darkest chapters in the dark history of rural landlordism. In many parishes, it is doubtful whether the village slums are not even in a worse condition to-day than when Charles Kingsley sang of "The Poacher's Widow," in 1849. It would be hard to find a more horrible story in the records of East End Slum-dom than the Wiltshire lecturer tells of some of the cottages in the parish of Edington, near Westbury:—

* On the general question of labourers' cottages, with references to authorities, see F. Verinder, in "Workers and their Industries" (Swan Sonnenschein, 1895), pp. 169, ff.

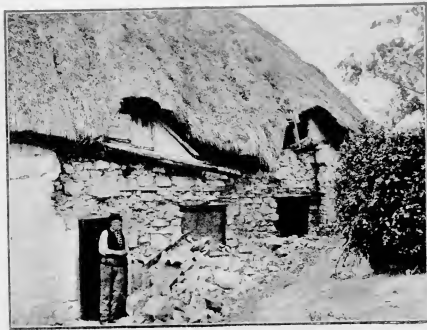
The cottages in this village, reports the lecturer, are in the most awful state of dilapidation it is possible to imagine. They are to be seen in every stage of ruin—from the cottage that is barely fit to stand to the heap of rubbish that marks the spot where a cottage formerly stood. One I inspected consisted of four rooms, two up and two down, with what had been formerly a small brew-house and wash-house attached. It adjoined another which was long past being tenanted, and was already a dangerous ruin. To describe the occupied house is almost impossible. The front room down stairs, which was the best, measured 15ft. 8in. by 8ft. 2½in., the height being 6ft. 6in. It was lighted by a window which the occupier had put in at her own expense; the old window had fallen out through decay, and the landlord refused to replace it. It was the only room where cooking could be done or meals taken, but it had no cupboard. A crazy staircase, that threatened to give way at every step, led to the room above. This was the same in length and breadth, but it had an average height of 5ft. 8in. only. The roof was in holes, and the ceiling, which was cracked and blistered to an almost inconceivable extent, had been falling bit by bit for years. No repairs had been done to this or any other room by the landlord for years. The window is 15in. square, but the walls are so built that only a small ray of light can enter. The back bed-room beggars description. Half one side of the room has literally fallen out into the garden, and has been in this condition for years. Old skirts and rags are hung over great holes to keep out wind and rain. But in spite of every precaution, the place in bad weather and in winter is a swamp. The ceiling—which is falling day by day—slopes in such a way that there is only a small space in which a man of average height can stand upright. The "room" below this is no better than a yard, and is open to the weather on two sides. Of the brew-house only the walls remain; the door and the roof have rotted away. The whole building will probably be blown down by the first rough wind.

Another house which the lecturer visited consisted of three rooms. Its walls were bulging out, and had great fissures, threatening total collapse. The ground-floor room had been partitioned into two, with the result that both halves were in a state of semi-darkness, even when the sun was shining brightly and the cottage door wide open. The front room was a stifling box in which you might touch both walls with extended arms. At the time of his visit the occupier (a woman) and a neighbour were themselves whitewashing the place. The bed-rooms were miniature lofts, unpapered, in a crumbling condition, separated by a warped and cracked door, which for years had ceased to answer its original purpose. One window had lost all its panes, and was boarded up. The ground-floor window was a curiosity. As the panes had fallen out the occupier had put in glass from one or two picture frames, but, the last collapse having exhausted the available glass, a family Bible had been pushed against the sash to keep the wind out. The woman who lives in this hovel with her boy of nine years (who helps to support the "home") gave me a heart-rending account of her miseries during her first confinement in one of these wretched bed-rooms. It was in the depth of winter, and—ladies of England, in your sheltered houses, think of it!—the snow lay upon the quilt on her bed, under which shivered mother and new-born babe. The melted snow produced a flood upon the floor, and found its way through the rotten floor and ceiling. Scarcely a ray of light came into the room, and at night the place was in utter darkness, for the wind blew through great holes in the roof in such a way that a candle or lamp was out of the question. On a rough night the cottage shakes so much that the occupant is sometimes obliged to leave the house for fear of its falling. Is it surprising that the woman, since the experiences of that awful lying-in, has spent much of her time in the hospital, and is now quite unable to do any but very light work? She receives 2s. 6d. from the parish and her son earns 3s. a week, and out of this the owner of the hovel takes 1s. a week for rent. The cottage of a "small holder" is nearly as bad. The whole of the top windows have been blown out, and their place is taken by sacks.

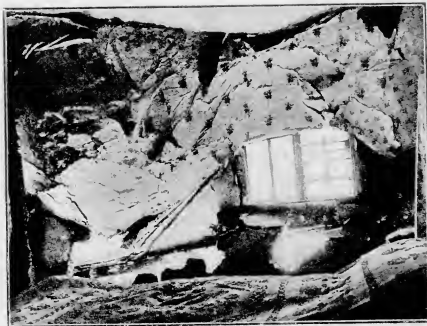
The owner of all these cottages, Simon Watson-Taylor, Esq., D.L., J.P., is lord of the manor, lay impropriator, and principal landowner of this and neighbouring villages. At Erlestoke he has a noble mansion, commanding, from its elevated position, beautiful views, surrounded by a well-timbered park in which deer roam by lake and cascade. The photographs which are re-produced on another page give a very inadequate idea of the wretched-



ERLESTOKE HOUSE, ERLESTOKE, WILTS.
(RESIDENCE OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.)

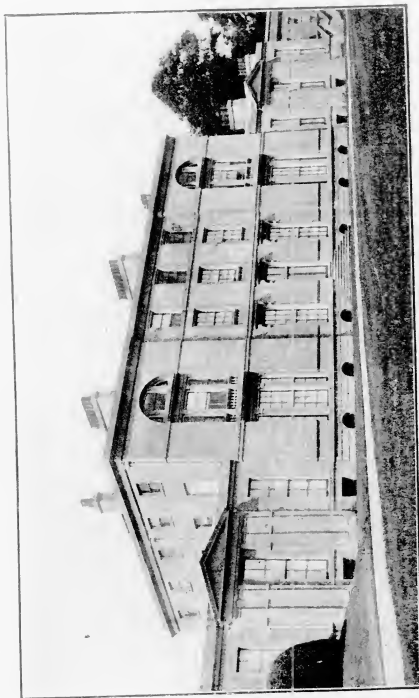


EXTERIOR OF LABOURER'S COTTAGE, EDINGTON, WILTS.
(PROPERTY OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.) (Photographed July 2nd, 1894.)



INTERIOR OF BEDROOM IN LABOURER'S COTTAGE, EDINGTON.
(PROPERTY OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.) (Photographed July 2nd, 1894.)

12



ERLESTOKE HOUSE, ERLESTOKE, WILTS
(RESIDENCE OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.)

13



EXTERIOR OF LABOURER'S COTTAGE, EDINGTON, WILTS
(PROPERTY OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.)
(Photographed July 2nd, 1894.)



INTERIOR OF BEDROOM IN LABOURER'S COTTAGE, EDINGTON.
(PROPERTY OF SIMON WATSON-TAYLOR, ESQ.)
(Photographed July 2nd, 1894.)

ness of the homes in which the tillers of his fields are, or were till lately, condemned to dwell, as compared with the mansion in which the land monopolist shelters himself when he honours the district with his presence, but they may serve to point a contrast, the very possibility of which should double the energy of every Land Restorer.

The condition of the Edington cottages was briefly described in the Red Van Notes which appeared in the *Weekly Dispatch* of July 8th. The agent, through whom Simon Watson-Taylor manages his estate, evidently recognised the description, although no name, either of village or owner, was given; and, in his wrath, visited the cottages described, and read the inhabitants a sharp lesson on the wickedness of giving information to agitators. He is reported to have vowed vengeance against the Red Van man "if ever he came again to Edington," but he put at least two of the cottages described into repair, and when, after all, Mr. Bartlett did again visit the village, and saw with his own eyes the results of the exposure, the threatened vengeance somehow failed to overtake him.

VILLAGE SLUMS.

The cottages at Edington have not been selected because Simon Watson-Taylor is worse than many other landlords who might be mentioned, but because they happen to be available for illustration. Instances of cottages nearly or quite as bad might be multiplied from any or all of the counties visited. For instance:—

Bucks (Wrestlingworth).—"Mr. Sanderson owns some cottages which are let at £3 a year each. They contain two rooms each, and, as one of the occupants said to me, the description of the Edington cottages 'fits them to a T.' Bedrooms with windows about 9 inches square, and a man of 5 ft. 8 in. cannot stand upright in them." [Mr. Sanderson was the chief opponent at the Red Van meeting.]

Bucks (Chesham).—In one case eleven people, only two of them under 16 years of age, live in a cottage of four rooms. The vicar owns some cottages which are falling to pieces. They are quite unfit for habitation, but he declines to put them in repair."

HERTS (Hertton).—"All the cottages belong to the Squire, who does little or no repairs. In one house, man, wife, two marriageable girls, and a boy sleep in one room."

WARWICK (Ratley).—In several instances it is practically impossible, on a wet night, to sleep in some of the bedrooms, and in the case of one cottage, by standing on a mound close to the house, you may look through the roof into the bedroom. The landlord of some of these cottages is, however, very solicitous about the morals, if not about the health, of the inmates. If any tenant's daughter 'gets into trouble,' the parents must immediately drive the unfortunate girl from home, otherwise the whole family is evicted."

A QUESTION OF ASSESSMENT.

Kelly's "Directory of Wiltshire" describes Erlestoke Park as "a noble stone structure in the Roman style, occupying a lofty position facing the north, and commands an extensive view of woodland scenery; at the rear is the long elevated ridge of Salisbury Plain; the park of 200 acres is well timbered and stocked with deer; it contains 8 lakes with cascades. . .

* Under the Local Government Act, the District Council is the Sanitary Authority, and will have power to deal with cases like the above; but the question of the Housing of the People can never be satisfactorily solved while the "lottom side of the house" remains the private property of monopolists.

The area [of the parish] is 3,023 acres; rateable value £2,170; the population in 1881 was 271." In addition to the above there is a vicarage, "a Domestic Gothic building of brick and stone," and also a number of farm buildings and dwellings. Yet the valuation for assessment, including land and buildings, is at the rate of 14s. 4d. per acre over the whole area. Barford St. Martin, a parish in the same county, without mansions or works, comes out with an average assessment of 47s. 6½d. per acre. The liberty of Bowood, wherein stands the Marquis of Lansdowne's palace, has an average assessment of 21s. 5½d. What, then, is the assessment of Erlestoke House? of Bowood House?

According to the theory of the law, land and buildings are assessed according to their value to the local rates; in practice, Overseers, Guardians, and Assessment Committees have hitherto been, in many instances, practically the nominees of lords of manors and owners of great estates. Thus the allotment-holder has been rated far higher than the large farmer, while the way in which the territorial magnate has been allowed to evade the just claims of the public purse, local and imperial, has constituted one of the gravest scandals of Local Government. Some years ago W. S. Caine, M.P., and Professor Thorold Rogers raised this question in Parliament, but beyond the publication of some astounding figures practically nothing has yet been done, and it is only now, when over 10,000 popularly-elected bodies have been called into existence for the purposes of rural self-government, that an opportunity occurs to break down one of the many privileges of the land monopolists.

Obstruction on the part of rate collectors and overseers has hitherto prevented any detailed examination of rate-books, but a committee of the English Land Restoration League is steadily collecting information on this question, and Parish Councillors and others who are able to furnish exact information will be doing good service by placing it at the disposal of the League. It is plain that if the Lord of the Manor be under-assessed, everyone else in the parish has to pay more than his fair share of the local rates. If the total assessment of the parish can be largely increased, by *levelling-up the landlord's assessment in proportion to the other assessments*, the sixpenny rate to which the Parish Council is limited will yield a great deal more without imposing a penny of additional burden upon the landless parishioners. Moreover, as the assessed annual value is taken into account in determining the capital value upon which the Death Duties are to be paid [Finance Act, 1894, Sect. 7, (5)], the national, as well as the local revenue will probably be defrauded, even as the law now stands, unless landlords are assessed at least as stringently as their more industrious but less highly privileged neighbours.

SOME LABOUR AGREEMENTS.

Some additional documentary evidence has been collected during the past year on the question of hiring agreements. The following specimen may be compared with the East Wilts agreement, the publication of which in last year's Report attracted so much attention. It was obtained in a village in East Berks, almost under the shadow of Windsor Castle. The

words here printed in *Italics* are added in writing to a printed form, apparently torn out of a book of blank agreements with counterfoils. For obvious reasons the actual names and addresses are not given here. The agreements are signed by "master" and "man," either at one of the "hiring fairs" or on an ordinary market day.

AN AGREEMENT entered into—th day of —, 1891, between A. B., of X., in the county of *Berks*, farmer, of the one part, and C. D., of Y., in the county of *Berks*, labourer, of the other part:

WHEREBY the said SERVANT agrees to serve the said MASTER as an *under carter*, and also as a general servant in husbandry from the—th day of —, 1891, to the—th day of —, 1891, at the weekly wages of *8s. 6d. per week and lodgings*, and the sum of *£2. 0. 0* extra for harvest.

AND the said MASTER hereby agrees to find the said SERVANT employment as aforesaid, and to pay him the wages before-mentioned, subject to the following conditions:

PROVIDED that if the said SERVANT shall either from sickness or accident be unable to follow his usual employment, then the weekly wages shall cease to be payable during the period of such sickness or accident, and the said SERVANT shall not be entitled to any portion of the said sum of *£2* in case he shall be discharged for misconduct, or shall enlist, or otherwise leave his MASTER's employ before the expiration of his service under this agreement, or absent himself from his duties.

As witness the hands of the said parties the day and year first above mentioned.

A. B.
C. D.

The servant lodges with the head carter to whom *6d.* a week is paid on his account by the master. Bed linen is washed at the master's expense. The servant pays for his own board.

Agreements similar to the above seem to be common in East Berks, but copies are difficult to get, as the farmers usually require them to be given up on renewal of hiring. An older system of *verbal* agreements, with payment of a shilling as earnest money, seems to have died out.

Another batch of agreements was collected in North and East Wilts. Their general form is as follows:—

MINUTE OF CONTRACT OF HIRING.

Name of Master. *A. B.* Residence. *X.*
Name of Servant. *C. D.* Residence. *Y.*
Hired for *Plough Boy*. From *Michaelmas, 189...* to *Michaelmas, 189...*
Wages, *4/6 per week, over at Michaelmas £1. 0. 0.*
To serve as a *Plough Boy*. To work in *Haymaking and Harvest* as long as required. If absent from illness, or other cause, wages to be deducted.
This Agreement is made especially subject to the said *C. D.* receiving from last employer a character satisfactory to the said *A. B.*

Signed *A. B.*, Master.
C. D., Servant

Dated *Michaelmas Oct. 11th, 189...*

Other agreements from the same district on similar printed forms give the following wages:—

HEAD CARTER.—*11/-* per week, house and garden free, one hundred aggrots *£2. 0. 0* over, *6d.* per load for corn drawn out, *6d.* for beer in harvest and haymaking, *5/-* for candles.

UNDER CARTER.—*6/-* per week, *6/6* at Lady Day, over at *Michaelmas, £1 10s.*
GENERAL FARM SERVANT ("and to fill up his time at anything he may be required to do, and continue working in haymaking and harvest as long as he may be required")—
"Same as the day men; if oxman, *7/-* per week more and *10/-* over." [Day men's wages are here *10/-* a week. The ploughs are drawn by oxen. He lives rent free in a cottage belonging to the farmer; it was formerly part of the stable attached to the manor house]

ANOTHER AGREEMENT does not specify the employment of the servant, who may however, be described as a milker, though he agrees "with all diligence and sobriety to fill up his time at anything he may be required to do," etc. He and three others have *fifty-six cows* to milk twice a day. They live rent free in four cottages (adapted from *free*). Wages *12s.* a week and one pound over at end of term.

All these agreements provide for the stoppage of wages during absence through "illness or other cause." As long as the poor wage slave is well enough to work he may be sweated as many hours as his master may think fit, but when he becomes ill, through overwork or accident, the "agreement" ceases to be binding upon the master, and the slave must live upon his "savings" or "come upon the rates."

ALLOTMENT RULES.

The following, which is printed on the back of the receipts for rent of allotments under the Vicar of Purton, is quoted to illustrate the insecurity of the tenure and the stringency of the restrictions under which the labourer is allowed access to even a small plot of land. It will serve as a model of "How not to do it" to the new Councils in their dealings with allotments.

PURTON VICARIAL GLEBE.

Conditions upon which the allotments are let, and which will be strictly enforced.

That the tenancy shall be at the absolute will and pleasure of the Vicar, who reserves to himself full power to put an end to it at any time of the year that he may think proper and to eject the Tenant at once without any formal notice.

That each allotment shall be kept clean and well-manured, and he cultivated by spade labour only, unless permission to the contrary be given, and not more than one-third of any allotment shall be sown with Wheat, and one-third Barley, or any White Straw Crop in any one year. This condition to apply to each separate allotment where two or more are held by one person.

That no Tenant shall underlet his Allotment, or any part of it, and any Tenant leaving the village without giving notice to the Agent will absolutely forfeit his Allotment Crop.

That the Rent which is due upon the Tenant's entering upon the Land, and as on *advance*, shall be punctually paid when demanded by the Agent, and if not so paid the landlord to have full power to distrain for the whole amount immediately.

The Duke of Bedford lets Allotments of Garden Land to Bedfordshire labourers under the following Rules and Regulations:—

1. The Rent is to be paid yearly in the first week of OCTOBER.
2. No Occupier shall be allowed to *sublet* his Allotment.
3. No Occupier to plough his Land, but to cultivate solely by Spade. Husbandry and to occupy it as Garden Ground only.
4. No Occupier shall *trespass* upon another's Allotment.
5. If any Occupier be found *neglectful* in the *Cultivation* of his land, or should he leave the Parish, he will not be permitted to hold it after the current year.
6. Any Occupier convicted of *Purching, Thieving, or of any other offence against the laws of the country*, will be deprived of his Garden.
7. Any Occupier neglecting to comply with the above Conditions will be deprived of his Garden at any time without legal Notice.
8. No Occupier who is at work for any Employer will be allowed to work upon his Land after Six o'clock in the Morning, or before Six in the Evening, without permission from his Master.
9. All Occupiers will be expected to conduct themselves with sobriety at all times, and to bring up their families in a decent and orderly manner.

At Harborough Magna (Warwickshire) the vicar recently let 50 acres of allotments at the rate of £2 per acre. Formerly the only allotments were those under the landlord (rent, £2 10s.), who, in December, 1893, served all the tenants with a copy of Rules, ten in number, from which the following are quoted:—

4. The Tenant shall cultivate his garden by spade husbandry *only*, and keep it free from weeds, clean, well-manured, and properly cultivated. He shall not work upon it on Sundays, nor erect any building without the landlord's previous consent in writing; neither shall he drain, nor plant fruit trees, otherwise the tenant shall not be entitled to compensation for the same.

5. No horse shall be used thereon except for the purpose of carting manure or taking away produce.

6. At determination of tenancy the tenant shall peaceably quit and deliver up possession.

10. If any rent shall be in arrears for 14 days, whether legally demanded or not, or if tenant wilfully break any of the above rules, or be convicted of any offence whereby he shall be liable to fine or imprisonment, it shall be lawful for the landlord to re-enter and take possession of the garden plot, and every crop and other thing thereon, and the tenancy shall be determined forthwith.

Among the rules formerly imposed on allotment holders in this parish was one which prohibited any work on the plot between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m., and another under which, if the labourer failed to attend church regularly, his allotment and all the crops upon it were forfeited!

It will be seen how careful the landlords are, in the above cases, to safeguard the supposed interests of the farmers as against the labourers; how they use the allotments as a means of enforcing the Game Laws; and, above all, how jealous they are of giving free access to land, on fair conditions, with security of tenure and guarantee for improvements, to the agricultural labourer. The Taxation of Land Values would open up to the industrious cultivator, whether farmer or labourer, the land now held out of use, or only allowed to be used under absurd restrictions by these dogs-in-the-manger.

THE LABOUR COMMISSIONER AND THE RED VAN MAN.

Since the publication of the Reports of the Labour Commission on the condition of the Agricultural Labourer, it has been sometimes maintained by the critics of the League that the statements made in the Red Van Reports are overdrawn. On the other hand, a Conference of Delegates from the Labourers' Unions has protested against the general tone of the Labour Commission's Reports "as being far more favourable than the facts warrant."⁴ An opportunity for testing the accuracy of one of these Reports occurred during the past year. Early in the spring of 1892 Mr. Roger C. Richards, Assistant Labour Commissioner, held a meeting in the

* Provisions of this sort appear to be a usual feature in allotment rules. It would be interesting to know whether they are inserted also in the leases of the large farmers, who get their land at a so much lower rent. And if so, why do not the landlords, so zealous for the thorough cultivation of very small plots, compel the farmers also to cultivate *their* land properly?

⁴ "Red Van Report," 1893, p. 7.

parish of Alderminster (Worcestershire), on the borders of Warwickshire, for the purpose of inquiring into the condition of the Agricultural Labourer. In his Report on the Stratford-upon-Avon Poor Law Union Mr. Richards wrote as follows:—

In Alderminster the meeting was entirely composed of labourers, who were invited by the schoolmaster. . . . The labourers evinced considerable interest in the questions, and great good humour, being evidently on excellent terms with Mr. Stokes, Mr. West's agent,* who came in during the evening (p. 37).

Before one can arrive at an exact estimate of the position of the labourers living, for example, in the Alderminster cottages, a calculation has to be made as follows:—

	s. d.	d. s. d.
Weekly Wages (in this case)
Rent, 7½ per cent. on £175—[Cost of Model Cottages]	5 0	0 14 0
Less amount paid	1 2	0 3 10
Extras by Piece Work	0 1 9
Weekly Earnings	0 19 7

I have taken 7½ per cent. as the interest as this is the return generally expected from such property by speculative builders in towns (p. 30).

On May 24th, 1894, the Red Van visited Alderminster. The lecturer's report is as follows:—

At our meeting last night I read out this description to the audience, and the men, as well as the vicar, who was present, and with whom I had a long conversation afterwards, characterised the report as misleading and inaccurate. I ascertained that the meeting, which the Commissioner says was "composed entirely of labourers," consisted of about 30 working men, the schoolmaster, the landlord's agent, and the vicar. I was also informed that none of the labourers present answered any of the questions put by the Commissioner. A small employer of labour told me that he and a gardener were the only two men who answered. As for himself, the Commissioner asked him what were the average weekly wages of labourers, and he replied, "from 10s. to 12s.," whereupon the agent at once interposed and said: "That is not fair; there is So-and-so receiving 12s. a week." It would appear from the Commissioner's Report that, in spite of the fact that the meeting was "composed entirely of labourers," he was much more ready to take the word of the agent than the testimony of the working men.

In 1892 Mr. West was paying his labourers 12s. per week, but since, then he has reduced them to 11s., and the day wages paid by the farmers are generally at the rate of 12s. a week.

With regard to the cottages being worth 3s. a week, the vicar said the statement was "nonsense"; but one of the men put the matter in a nutshell: "What is the good of a fine house if your wages won't buy stuff to put in it?"

* A curious commentary upon this statement is furnished by a leaflet, issued some time ago by the County Voters' Defence Association, 41, Parliament Street, Westminster, entitled "A Gross Case of Tory Tyranny." It relates how William Timms, a labourer on Mr. West's estate at Preston-on-Stour, was evicted from his cottage and allotment and driven from the village on account of his political opinions by this same Mr. James Stokes. The leaflet concludes: "It must rest with the working classes themselves to vote for those who will so alter the law that such village tyrants as Mr. James Stokes shall possess no longer the power to work such wrong."

[†] It is a brilliant idea to treat as an addition to the labourer's income the difference between the ordinary rent of a country cottage and the profits "usually expected" by urban jerry-builders!

The Red Van revisited Alderminster October 8th, on its return journey, and formed a branch of the Warwickshire Labourers' Union.

By that time one farmer had reduced the wages of his shepherd and waggoner to 10s. a week, and was said to have threatened to reduce a day man to 7s.

The first difficulty the branch had to face was the question of finding a meeting-place in Squire West's "model village." For not only does Mr. West own practically all the land in the parish, but every building—church, school, inn, farmhouse, barn, cottage—is necessarily, directly or indirectly, under his control. Despairing of getting entry to any other place, the labourers applied for the use of the club-room at the inn, where the local Friendly Society holds its meetings. But the landlord had received instructions to be very careful for what purpose he let that club-room. A Labourers' Union, with aspirations towards the abolition of law-made poverty, is quite a different thing from a Friendly Society; so the club-room was closed against the Union. On October 22nd, 1894, if Mr. Roger C. Richards had revisited Alderminster he might have seen a score of English labourers, standing on the wet grass in the chill October evening, paying their subscriptions and taking up their cards as members of the Alderminster branch of the Union, because, in a "model village," where the landlord's agent is "evidently on excellent terms" with the labourers, they could find no shelter under one of Squire West's roofs.*

The latest news from Alderminster comes to hand as this Report is being revised for press. "A Union labourer has received notice to leave his cottage in March. No reason is given for noticing the labourer to leave, and the only reason that can be imagined is that the labourer is secretary to the branch of the Union, and that he not only stood as a candidate for the Parish Council, but being defeated by the show of hands, insisted, in spite of the Squire, who is sole landowner, and the vicar, in demanding a poll. . . . The labourer has been a householder under the squire for upwards of twenty years, and in a month's time, in the ordinary course, he will be driven like an outlaw from his native parish, apparently for no other reason than that of exercising the rights of citizenship."†

THE STORY OF A BOYCOTTED SHOEMAKER.

But it is not only in the heat of an election and on account of political differences that landlords use their power over the homes of the people. Space permits the quotation of but one from a large number of reports still left unnoted.

* Section 8 of the Local Government Act, 1894, gives power to Parish Councils to "provide or acquire buildings for public offices and for meetings."

† Letter of B. Riley (Secretary of the Warwickshire Labourers' Union), *Daily Chronicle*, March 9th, 1895. The *Star* of March 11th reports, from another village where the Red Van has been at work (Appleton, Berks), that T. C. Enoch, Parish Councillor, has since his election been discharged from his employment by the Squire. Having an has since his election been discharged from his employment by the Squire. Having an has since his election been discharged from his employment by the Squire. Having an husband "puts himself so forward and interferes so much." Every house applied for by Enoch in Appleton has been refused him. Many similar cases could be quoted.

Wm. Arnold, of Narborough, Norfolk, shoemaker, was in 1854 appointed first Chief Ranger of the Foresters' Court *Anchor of Hope*. No. 2661, meeting in the parlour of the "Ship" Inn. Progress was slow at first, but as the Court grew a larger meeting-place became necessary, which the owner of the "Ship" promised, but failed, to build. In 1884, the number of members having increased to 329, with funds amounting to £259, the landlord offered to build a large room and to let it to the Court for about three hours a month at a rental of £16 a year. The Squire, however, offered a piece of land at a reasonable price, which the Court accepted. The owner of the "Ship," alarmed at this unexpected development, now offered to build a room, to let it at a nominal rent, and to take the land, which the Squire had sold, off the Society's hands, paying all expenses. But the "Foresters" wisely preferred to build a Hall of their own, which was opened with great rejoicing, and has proved of great value to the village. But, early in the following October, Brother Arnold's rent was raised from 8 guineas to 25 guineas! And on Old Michaelmas Day, he, although a yearly tenant, received notice to quit at the end of the quarter. On asking for an explanation, he was informed that the landlord had nothing against Arnold personally, but that he could not reach the Court except through Arnold, and that, if the latter could be got out of the parish, the former would probably collapse.

In the small village, no house could be obtained for love or money. But beside the new Hall there happened to be a piece of vacant land, and upon this a substantial cottage was promptly erected for Brother Arnold, and to it was given the name of "BOYCOTT LODGE".

What the exceptional kindness of the Squire enabled Arnold and his Court to do at Narborough, the Taxation of Land Values, by compelling even unwilling landlords to let the land pass on reasonable terms into the hands of those who are prepared to use it, will enable the labourers to do everywhere.

THE RED VAN REPORT IN A NUTSHELL.

To drop a man in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and tell him he is at liberty to walk ashore, would not be more bitter irony than to place a man where all the land is appropriated as the property of other people, and to tell him he is a free man, at liberty to work for himself and to enjoy his own earnings.—HENRY GEORGE in "Social Problems."

The land question means hunger, thirst, nakedness, notice to quit, labour spent in vain, the toil of years seized upon, the breaking-up of homes; the misery of parents, children, wives; the despair and wildness which spring up in the hearts of the poor where legal force, like a sharp harrow, goes over the most sensitive and vital rights of mankind. All this is contained in the land question.

CARDINAL MANNING.

POSTSCRIPT.—The Red Van Committee will be glad to receive copies of Local Histories, Directories, Maps or Guide Books (of whatever date); Annual or Special Reports of County, District or Parish Councils, or of Boards of Guardians, of Charities or Allotment Trustees; Enclosure Awards, etc., etc.; and marked copies of Newspapers containing information on land and labour questions, such as are discussed in the present and previous reports. Information which may be useful in checking, correcting or supplementing the reports of the lecturers will be at all times welcomed.

THE "RED VAN" FUND,
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, JAN. 2, 1894—JAN 14, 1895 (54 Weeks).

Cash in Bank Jan. 2, 1844	£7	0	0
Cash in Soc.'s hands, Jan. 2, 1844	4	8	9
Subscriptions (as per list on p. 23)
Amounts Sold ("Real Van" Report, 1833)	1,074	5	0
Hertford Borough Treasurer's Compensation	33	10	0
(for broken window of Van)	3	5	0

	0	1	6

VANS—Repairs, Fittings, and Utensils	£11	5	7
SALARIES			
Lecturers (including "Parish Council" Meetings)	£433	7	8
Drivers (including Horse hire)	245	7	4
Organising Expenses at Central Office	110	8	0
Travelling Expenses (including "Parish Council" Meetings)	689	3	0
Printing and Typewriting	35	5	3
Furniture, Diagrams, Parcels, and Postage	190	13	3
Advertisements, Billposting, & Distributing	90	1	2½
Hire of Schools, &c., for Indoor Meetings	4	13	0
Standing for Vans, and Tolls	4	12	0
Stationery, Maps, Dictation, and Parliamentary Papers	5	2	0
Warehousing Vans and Utensils during winter in London	11	13	2
Cost of Vans—Refurbishments, &c.	25	18	6
Legal Expenses and Licences	18	3	6
Insurance	20	3	10½
Part cost of Typewriter and Stand	3	0	0
Interest on Debts	11	7	10
Cash in hand, Jan. 14, 1895	10	6	0
	3	15	0
	£1,122	10	6

Examined with the Bank-book and Vouchers and found correct.
LONDON, 11th March, 1895.

SAMUEL J. BOYCE,
Chartered Accountant.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Guarantors' Sub- scription	£	s.	d.	Forward	£	s.	d.
... ..	1,000	0	0	Gladstone Radical Club, Bethnal Green	0	5	0
				Hackney, Rev. E. T.	0	5	0
OTHER SUBSCRIPTIONS:—				Hesketh, W.	0	3	0
Anckeltell, H.	0	10	0	Harden, W.	0	1	0
Anti-Squire	0	10	0	Huson, John	0	1	0
(and don.)	0	10	0	"Iconoclast"	0	2	6
Armfield, W. N.	0	10	0	Indebted Labour Party			
Aston, James	0	10	0	(Rochdale)	0	7	6
Batty, E.	1	1	0	Jackman, R. S., L.C.C.	0	5	0
Batty, E. and Barnes,	0	10	0	"J. E. S."	0	5	0
G. N.	1	10	0	"Laing, W. Wardlaw	0	10	0
Beacham, O.	0	2	6	"Land Ahead!"	0	10	0
Derens, L. H.	0	10	0	Leavey, C. A.	0	1	0
Edwards, C. C.	0	1	0	Murphy, John	0	1	0
Bright, W. R.	0	10	0	Pike, C.	0	10	0
Brace, Wm.	0	10	0	Powell, A.	0	2	0
Bushnell, W. S.	0	1	0	Quasby, H. H.	0	5	0
Camp, T. H.	0	1	0	Richards, W.	0	1	0
Caudle, Wm.	0	1	0	Ridgway, H. M.	0	10	0
Claperton, Miss	0	1	0	Salter, C. J.	0	1	0
Clifton, Edwd.	0	1	0	Soden, H. B.	0	1	0
Cobley, Fredk.	0	2	6	"Squire"	0	5	0
Codling, W. G.	0	5	0	Squire, H. H.	0	2	6
Cowdery, W. C.	0	1	0	Stephen, John	0	1	0
Cox, A. W.	0	1	0	Taylor, Miss Helen	4	0	0
"Diogenes Fund"	30	0	0	(and don.)	20	0	0
Dunsmore, G.	0	5	0	Trow, Ed.	0	2	6
Freeman, H. A.	2	0	0	(and don.)	0	2	6
Fryer, W. (2 per Jno.	0	1	0	Wake, Joseph	0	1	0
Gray)	0	1	0	(and don.)	0	1	0
Fryer, W. H.	0	2	6	Ward, John	0	1	0
Gaskell, G.	0	10	0	Wibbye, H.	0	5	0
				Woolat, John	0	5	0
				Woolat, F.	0	2	6
Forward	£1,039	13	0				
					£1,074	5	0

The Executive of the English Land Restoration League earnestly appeal to all readers of this Report, who find themselves in sympathy with the work of the "Red Vans," for contributions towards the maintenance and extension of that work during the season of 1895.

Subscriptions or Donations towards the Special "Red Van Fund," or towards the General Fund of the League, will be gratefully acknowledged, and should be sent to the General Secretary, E.L.R.L., 8, Duke Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.

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